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Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
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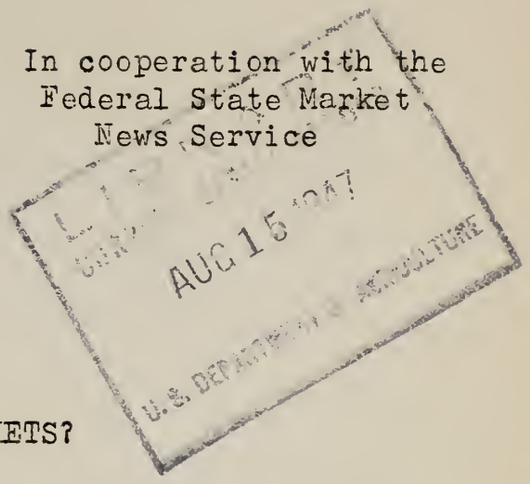

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending August 1, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 29 -- Plentiful, low-priced Gravenstein apples continue to top the list of best fruit buys, accompanied by small oranges, peaches, and watermelons.

Cantaloups (slightly higher), Persian melons, figs, (lower) and Thompson Seedless grapes make up the week's fair buys. Considering quality, some plums and prunes are also a fair buy.

Supplies of Bartlett pears from Lake county are becoming heavier. And there are a few Bing and Lambert cherries coming in from Montana at a high price.

Citrus fruits are still scarce and high.

Peppers, squash, and tomatoes remain the best vegetable buys at fairly low prices.

The fair buy class takes on a slightly different complexion with snap beans, iced carrots, cucumbers, and peas as the most prominent members.

A glance at this week's report on meat leaves us with the impression that supplies are plentiful, prices are holding their own but are about unchanged from last week, and there is generally a full range of quality. Quality of steer and heifer beef is largely of Good grade. Commercial cow beef is in fairly ample supply. Liberal supplies of veal are clearing daily. There is a wider range of quality on lamb, but demand is broad, while demand for mutton is improving. Pork cuts are moving in larger volume, despite some curtailment in demand. Skinned smoked hams and slab bacon are in very light supply, with prices up about $1.00.

There is no startling change on butter. The pendulum of prices continues to swing to the tune of fluctuations in Eastern markets. The local ups and downs are the reverse of last week. Grade A (92 Score) is up 1 cent at 74 cents per pound, while Grade B (90 Score) is down 1 cent at 68 cents per pound. Supplies are ample for demand, despite the fact that last week's decline in production was the sharpest since the seasonal peak was reached in the week ending June 5.

Contrary to the recent trend, egg prices are practically unchanged from a week ago. Grade "A" Smalls are up 2 cents at 46½ cents per dozen. Otherwise prices are unchanged. Top quality eggs are showing the effects of summer temperatures and are not plentiful enough for demand.

Poultry prices are on a downward trend as the result of less demand for heavier receipts and offerings. Small fryers are selling 1 to 2 cents per pound lower; colored fryers and roasters are down 4 cents per pound alive and 1 to 2 cents per pound dressed; all weights of dressed Leghorn fowl are 1 to 2 cents per pound lower, while heavy live Leghorns are up about 1/2 cent; colored fowl is 1 cent per pound less.

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AUG 15 1947

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Aug. 8, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 5 — Freestone peaches are a good buy and about as plentiful as they are likely to get this season. The principal varieties available are the J. H. Hales and Elbertas. And now is the time to get them canned.

Watermelons are an excellent buy at low prices, as well as being tops for the family picnic.

Thompson Seedless grapes, Gravenstein apples, and small oranges are also good buys.

Cantaloups are quite plentiful and a fairly good buy, along with Honeydew melons. Bartlett pears are in heavier supply and a fair buy, together with plums and prunes.

Grapefruit and lemons remain scarce and high.

Snap beans are a good buy this week. And prices have edged their way down on eggplant to make it a good buy. Italian squash and peppers are the other good buys.

Fair buys are numerous and include artichokes at lower prices, bunched carrots (higher), corn (considerably lower), cucumbers, lettuce, okra, peas, and tomatoes.

Meat seems to be in less demand. 'Tis said that end-of-the-month inventories and vacations are partly the cause. Supplies are ample, while prices are barely holding steady. Both lower grade cow beef and Utility and Commercial grades of lamb are being offered at more nearly bargain prices. The top grades (Good and Choice) of beef and lamb are holding about steady. Supplies of veal are ample, but are mostly of Commercial and Utility grades, demand for which is fairly good. More liberal offerings of lamb show a wider range of quality and are not making a daily clearance. The same is true of more plentiful cuts of fresh pork. Ewe mutton is in somewhat broader demand. Smoked ham and bacon continue in very light supply, with prices $1.00 to $2.00 higher.

Butter prices are little changed from a week ago at 75 cents per pound on Grade A(92Score) and 68 cents per pound on Grade B (90 Score). Production is still showing a decline but is considerably larger than last year at this time. With retail sales on a downward trend, supplies are ample for all needs.

Egg prices are unchanged from a week ago but are at a record high. As a result, there is less demand. In running a comparison with last year's prices, we find that Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted at 67½¢ per dozen compared with 50½¢ last year, Mediums at 65½¢ compared with 45½¢, Smalls at 46½¢ compared with 33½¢, and Grade "B" Large eggs are quoted at 56½¢ compared with last year's 41½¢. Among moderate receipts, top grades are in lightest supply.

On poultry, offerings of broilers, fryers and roasters are liberal but are in no greater demand. As a result, prices on live weights are 1 cent per pound lower, and prices on dressed weights are down 1 to 3 cents per pound. Otherwise, prices are practically unchanged from a week ago. A consensus is that high egg prices are helping to hold laying hens on the farm, while poultry prices in relation to feed and meat prices should stimulate demand for poultry.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Aug. 15, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 12 -- Gravenstein apples, Thompson Seedless grapes, and watermelons top the list of best buys on the wholesale market.

Cantaloups, Honeydew melons, small oranges, and peaches are all fairly good buys. Cantaloups are plentiful and of good quality. Small oranges, as well as lighter supplies of peaches are higher priced.

Bartlett pears, plums and prunes make up the fair buys.

It's neither the high road nor the low road on the vegetable market, but the middle. Moderately priced items prevail. Peppers are the only good buy. But corn, snap beans, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, peas, squash, and tomatoes are all fair buys.

Although celery is a little lower priced, it is still too high to be classed as a fair buy. The same is true of potatoes and onions. And carrots and lettuce are both up in price. Cabbage remains scarce and fairly high priced.

Contrary to the situation a few week ago, demand for meat continues to lag somewhat. Warmer weather at interior points is slowing down the movement of fresh meats, especially cow and heavy calf carcasses. At the same time, the volume of slaughter is being held in balance with existing supplies. Choice grades of steer and heifer beef are hardly to be found, but Good and Commercial to Utility grades are ample, demand for which is slow and indifferent. Fairly liberal supplies of veal are in rather narrow demand. The general movement of lamb is rather uneven. Although there is a wider range of quality, supplies of Good and Choice grades are fairly ample. Ewe mutton is in fairly ample supply but little wanted. Fresh pork cuts are in good supply and fairly good demand, while smoked ham and bacon continue in light volume.

Continued hot weather in the Middlewest is having its effect upon butter production, as demand for cream becomes broader. Local prices are up 3 to 4 cents above last week at 77-79 cents per pound on Grade A (92 Score) and at 71 cents on Grade B (90 Score). For the week ending August 2, San Francisco's retail sales showed an unexpected increase of 1.2 percent and were 120 percent larger than last year. But generally supplies are ample.

Heavier receipts of top-grade eggs from other areas are easing off the rather tight supply situation on eggs. As a result, quotations are 2 to 4 cents lower on the low side of the price range. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted at 64 to 67½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 61 to 65½ cents, Smalls at 44 to 46½ cents, and Grade "B" Large at 54 to 56½ cents.

More demand for lighter receipts of poultry is resulting in higher prices on all classes of young stock. Compared to a week ago, broilers are 3 to 4 cents per pound higher alive and 2 cents higher dressed; light fryers are up 2 to 3 cents on live weights and 1 cent on dressed weights; colored fryers are quoted 6 to 7 cents higher alive and 4 to 5 cents higher dressed; colored roasters are also up 6 to 7 cents per pound alive, with dressed weights 3 to 4 cents higher.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Aug. 22, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 19 — Gravenstein apples, Thompson Seedless grapes, and watermelons (slightly higher) still head the list of best buys on the wholesale market.

Honeydew melons are a fairly good buy, along with small oranges and peaches at slightly higher prices.

Fair buys include more plentiful and slightly lower-priced figs, Bartlett pears, and cantaloups (slightly higher).

Lemons are considerably higher because of hot weather in the Middlewest, where prices immediately went up.

This week there is a better assortment of good vegetable buys, including cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes (depending upon the quality). There are lots of ordinary to poor quality tomatoes wholesaling at very low prices.

Corn, mushrooms (lower), peas, and squash make up the list of fair buys.

Snap beans, celery, onions, potatoes, and sweet potatoes are all a little too high in price to be included among the fair buys.

Cabbage remains scarce and high, while carrots and lettuce are both up in price.

There is no great change in the situation on meat this week. Supply and demand are fairly well balanced and prices are running from unchanged on the best grades to the low side of the price range on some of the lower quality grades. Demand is a little broader for beef, but supplies are fully ample. For the most part, quality is of Commercial to Good steer and heifer beef. Generally, demand is clearing supplies of veal -- especially the Good and Choice grades. Lamb supplies are showing a somewhat wider range of quality but an improved demand, while ewe mutton is still in narrow demand. All cuts of pork are in strong demand, with prices holding up. Skinned smoked hams are in light supply and $1.00 to $3.00 higher. The bulk of smoked bacon is moving in packages.

Butter is little changed in price from last week. Grade A (92-Score) is about one cent lower at 78 cents per pound. Grade B (90-Score) is unchanged at 71 cents per pound. San Francisco's retail sales continue on an upgrade, while production is on the downgrade. Despite this, supplies are ample for demand, which is mostly for immediate needs.

Greater use of storage eggs and larger supplies from other areas continue to ease off the rather tight situation that has existed on supplies during recent weeks. Grade "A" Medium eggs are down one cent at 61 to 64½ cents per dozen --probably because there is a gradual increase evident in the production of medium and small sizes. Otherwise prices are unchanged. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted at 64 to 67½¢ per dozen, Grade "A" Smalls at 44 to 46½¢, and Grade "B" Large at 54 to 56½¢.

Poultry prices are decidedly higher than last week, as the result of an improved demand for lighter offerings. In fact, prices have jumped much more rapidly than was anticipated. On both live and dressed weights, broilers and light fryers are 1 to 2 cents per pound higher; colored fryers and roasters, as well as Leghorn fowl, are up 2 to 3 cents. Colored fowl are 1 cent per pound higher on dressed weights, but are unchanged on live weights.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Aug. 29, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 26 -- Gravenstein apples still continue to head the list of best buys among the fruits. But since it has been said that "variety is the spice of life," it is encouraging to learn that Delicious and Jonathan apples are beginning to come in from Butte county — at a high price of course.

All kinds of grapes are a good buy, especially Thompson Seedless, Muscats, and Ribiers. Small oranges are slightly higher priced but still a good buy, along with watermelons.

Honeydew melons and peaches are fairly good buys, with some J. H. Hale and Elberta peaches arriving from Oregon.

Lemons are high, and grapefruit is higher on the large sizes.

It's a foursome on the best vegetable buys, with cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes playing the game.

Mushrooms and lima beans are fair buys at lower prices, together with both hard and soft types of squash.

Celery is coming down in price, but artichokes, snap beans, cauliflower, lettuce, and peas are all higher priced this week.

Cabbage remains scarce and high, while onions and potatoes are still too high for the fair-buy class.

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This week shows an improved demand for meat. Generally, supplies are clearing daily. There's not much change in prices, but Cutter to Canner cow beef is being held $1.00 higher, while in some instances lamb is $1.00 lower. Quality of beef is running largely to Good and Commercial grades. Supplies of veal also consist of Good and Commercial grades and continue fairly ample. For the most part, lamb is of Commercial and Good quality, with only a small amount of Choice grade. Ewe mutton is in broader demand, but there is less of it. Demand for fresh pork cuts is clearing the daily offerings, while smoked skinned hams and bacon are in more liberal supply.

Moderate supplies of butter are about equal to the moderate demand. But Grade A (92-Score) is up 2 cents above last week at 80 cents per pound, and Grade B (90-Score) is ½ cent higher at 71½ cents per pound. Higher costs on supplies from the Mid-West are the reason.

There's very little change on eggs. Supplies are slightly heavier, while prices remain practically unchanged. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted at 66 to 67½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 60 to 64½ cents, Smalls at 44 to 46½ cents, and Grade "B" Large eggs at 54 to 56½ cents.

Some poultry prices are up and some are down from last week. Leghorn broilers and fryers are in lighter supply and more demand, with the result that prices are 3 cents per pound higher on both live and dressed broilers and 2 cents higher on fryers. With demand less for heavier supplies of colored fryers and roasters, prices are 3 cents per pound lower on both live and dressed weights. In the case of fowl, light Leghorns and all weights of colored fowl are up one cent per pound on live weights, but are unchanged on dressed weights.

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